

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /063 W
----- 100057

R 061250Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 460

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMIJNSUL MADRAS 2657

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10638

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, IN, US, CASC

SUBJECT: GOI ALLEGES ANAND MARG INVOLVEMENT IN CHIEF JUSTICE
ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

REFS: A. NEW DELHI 5062 (1974)

B. NEW DELHI 3812

SUMMARY: GOI MINISTER OF STATE FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MEHTA, ANNOUNCED IN PARLIAMENT THE ARREST OF FOUR ANAND MARGIS IN CONNECTION WITH THE MARCH20 ATTEMPT ON CHIEF JUSTICE RAY'S LIFE. HE HELD THAT GOI INVESTIGATORS HAVE UNCOVERED "SOME LINK" BETWEEN THE RAY INCIDENT AND THE JANUARY ASSASSINATION OF RAILWAY MINISTER L.N. MIS RA. MEHTA STATED THAT ONE OF RAY'S ASSAILANTS IS MARRIED TO A U.S. CITIZEN. THE U.S. WIFE OF THE DETAINED MARGI IS ALSO A MARG MEMBER. SHE RETURNED TO THE U.S. JULY 11. THE LEFTIST PRESS HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO USE MEHTA'S REVELATIONS TO MALIGN THE U.S.
END SUMMARY.

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1. REF A. PROVIDES BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE SEMI-SECRET

ANAND MARG. REF B IS LATEST ANAND MARG UPDATE.

2. MINISTER OF STATE FOR HOME AFFAIRS, OM MEHTA, ANNOUNCED IN PARLIAMENT AUGUST 4 THAT THE CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (CBI) HAS ARRESTED FOUR ANAND MARGIS IN CONNECTION WITH THE MARCH 20 - ATTEMPT ON CHIEF JUSTICE A.N. RAY'S LIFE (NEW DELHI 3911). ONE OF TTOSSE ARRESTED IN RANJAN DWIVEDI, THE INDIAN HUSBAND OF U.S. CITIZEN PATRICIA ANN KEYSER DWIVEDI, AGE 24, WHO IS NOW IN THE UNITED STATES.

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, MINISTER OF STATE MEHTA SAID THAT ONE OF THE THREE ANAND MARGIS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT HELD THAT DWIVEDI HAD "IDENTIFIED" THE CHIEF JUSTICE TO THE ALLEGED ASSASSINS. MEHTA IS ALSO REPORTED IN THE PRESS TO HAVE STATED THAT THE CBI INVESTIGATION SHOTED "THERE WAS SOME LINK" BETWEEN THE RAY ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AND THE ASSASSINATION OF RAILWAY MINISTER L. N. MISHRA IN JANUARY, 1975.

4. SO FAR ONLY TWO DAILIES HAVE EDITORIALIZED ABOUT MEHTA'S STATEMENTS IN PARLIAMENT. THE LEAD EDITORIAL OF THE CONGRESS PARTY-LINKED NATIONAL HERALD ON AUGUST 6 REPEATED MEHTA'S CHARGES OF ANAND MARG INVOLVEMENT IN THE ATTEMPT ON RAY'S LIFE AND THE MISHRA ASSASSINATION. IT RECALLED MRS. GANDHI'S FREQUENT PUBLIC REFERENCES ABOUT THE "ATMOSPHERE OF REVOLT" ALLEGEDLY PREVAILING BEFORE THE EMERGENCY. THE CPI DAILY JANYUG ON AUGUST 6 HIGHLIGHTED MEHTA'S CHARGES BUT ALSO COMMENTED THAT ONE OF RAY'S ASSAILANTS IS MARRIED TO AN AMERICAN WHO HAS SINCE RETURNED TO THE U.S. BOTH EDITORIALS WENT ON TO ALLEGE CIA LINKS TO THE RIGHT WING JANA SANGH AND THE BANNED RSS. TEXTS POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT.

5. COMMENT: IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE LEFTIST PRESS WILL USE MEHTA'S DISCLOSURES IN PARLIAMENT TO EMPHASIZE A U.S. CONNECTION WITH THE ALLEGED ANAND MARG ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS. DWIVEDI'S MARRIAGE TO AN AMERICAN CITIZEN PROVIDES MORE AMMUNITION. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY MRS. DWIVEDI TO THE CONSULAR SECTION, SHE ARRIVED IN INDIA EARLIER TTIS YEAR AND MARRIED DWIVEDI IN PATNA, BIHAR, SHORTLY THEREAFTER. BOTH ARE ANAND MARGIS. DWIVEDI, A LAWYER IN THE SUPREME COURT WAS ARRESTED ON JUNE 6, TWO DAYS AFTER THE GOI BAN ON THE ANAND MARG. (OFFICIAL EWS RELEASES STATE THAT 400 MARGIS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED SINCE THE BAN

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WAS ANNOUNCED.) MRS. DWIVEDI HAS WRITTEN TO THE CONSUL THAT LAC OF FUNDS AND VISA PROBLEMS FORCED HER TO RETURN TO THE U.S. ON JULY 11. SHE LAST SAW HER HUSBAND IN JAIL ON JUNE 10. IN HER LETTERS, SHE HAS REQUESTED THAT THE CONSUL SEEK INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF HER HUSBAND'S CASE.

6. AS WE HAVE EXPLAINED IN REE A, THE ANAND MARG IS A "HOT POTATO" FOR THE U.S. THE GOI CHARGES THAT THE ANAND MARG IS INVOLVED IN THE

MISHRA ASSASSINATION AND THE ATTEMPT ON RAY'S LIFE MAKE IT EVEN MORE SO. DWIVEDI IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN. WE ARE, THEREFORE, RESPONDING TO MRS. DWIVEDI'S REQUEST BY STATING THAT WE WILL BE UNABLE TO PURSUE ENQUIRIES INTO HER HUSBAND'S SITUATION ON HER BEHALF. WE WILL SUGGEST THAT SHE WRITE DIRECTLY TO INDIAN AUTHORITIES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION, ARRESTS, PLOTS, JUDGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE10638
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750271-0862
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750877/aaaacqju.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NEW DELHI 5062, 75 NEW DELHI 3812
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 AUG 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <25 NOV 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOI ALLEGES ANAND MARG INVOLVEMENT IN CHIEF JUSTICE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT
TAGS: PINT, PINS, CASC, IN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006